

Message Text

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43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 /017 W

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R 121250Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 211

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DEPT PLEASE PASS COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN

SUBJ: CONDUCT OF AMERICAN BUSINESS IN IRAN

1. THE DCM, WHILE ACTING AS CHARGE, WAS CALLED IN BY PARVIZ RADJI, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER, ON FEBRUARY 8. RADJI BEGAN BY SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO MAKE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE EMBASSY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT TOLERATE AMERICAN BUSINESS DEALING THROUGH MIDDLEMEN AND FIVE PERCENTERS IN ITS DEALINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN. HE SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS UNHAPPY OVER TWO SPECIFIC INSTANCES IN WHICH AMERICAN FIRMS HAD APPARENTLY ERRONEOUSLY THOUGHT THEY COULD ENHANCE THEIR CHANCES OF GETTING GOI CONTRACTS BY WORKING THROUGH MIDDLEMEN. SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID THAT WESTINGHOUSE AND AN UNNAMED AMERICAN FIRM ENGAGED IN A URANIUM ORE TRANSACTION HAD BEEN GUILTY OF THIS PRACTICE. WHEN THE CHARGE PRESSED FOR MORE PARTICULARS ON THE URANIUM ORE FIRM, RADJI SAID HE WOULD MAKE INQUIRIES AND GET BACK TO THE CHARGE. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE HAD LITTLE CLARIFICATION TO OFFER OTHER THAN IT RELATED TO "URANIUM IN GENERAL." WHEN ASKED AS TO THE NATIONALITIES OF THESE MIDDLEMEN, RADJI REPLIED "VARIOUS NATIONALITIES."

2. THE EMBASSY WILL INFORM THE LOCAL WESTINGHOUSE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SENSE OF THE FOREGOING.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND COMMERCE ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUESTED TO INCLUDE IN THEIR BRIEFINGS OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN

THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FINDS UNACCEPTABLE THEIR
RECOURSE TO FIVE PERCENTERS, MIDDLEMEN AND INFLUENCE PEDDLERS IN
GENERAL IN DEALINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN, THERE CAN BE NO
DOUBT THAT THE GOI IS SERIOUS ON THIS MATTER AND ANY AMERICAN FIRM
CAUGHT IN A VIOLATION OF THIS PROHIBITION CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE
EXCLUDED FROM DOING BUSINESS IRAN.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN01394
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750051-0469
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750248/aaaabrhz.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONDUCT OF AMERICAN BUSINESS IN IRAN
TAGS: BGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006